



Emergency Management  
Fax: (509) 628-2621

## **BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**651 Truman Avenue  
Richland, Washington 99352  
(509) 628-2600**



Southeast Communications Center  
Fax: (509) 628-2622

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Contact: Steve Sautter  
Public Information Officer  
(509) 628-8470 or (509) 539-0312

### **Southridge High School is new evacuation center**

Richland, Wash.: Benton County Emergency Services, in conjunction with Energy Northwest and the Department of Energy, is notifying Benton County residents who live within the emergency planning zones for Hanford and the Columbia Generating Station of a change to the designated Emergency Worker and Assistance Center (EWAC). For the last several years, Kiona-Benton High School in Benton City has been the center's location. Subject to continuing negotiations, Southridge High School in Kennewick is now the designated EWAC.

BCES is mailing information regarding the change, including evacuation routes that lead to Southridge High School, to residents of the affected areas.

"We appreciate the Kennewick School District and the administration at Southridge High School allowing us to use their facilities," said Brian Calvert, who oversees the radiological emergency planning program for BCES. "We hope we never have to use the facility for an actual event, but we are ready if it is needed."

If an incident on the Hanford Site required the evacuation of Benton County residents living close to the Hanford Site, the EWAC would act as an assistance center where residents could go to be checked for potential radioactive contamination and be provided with shelter, food and other needed services.

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